



## THE STONEHENGE SCHOOL

NDR/dah

17<sup>th</sup> December 2020

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### Headteacher

Mr. N. D. Roper B.Sc., NPQH

### School Business Manager

Mrs. J. Wakeham

Dear Parents,

As the autumn term draws to a close may I thank all families for their support since school reopened in September. Through a combination of vigilance, careful adherence to NHS guidance and an element of good fortune we have managed to remain fully operational throughout the longest term in the academic year. Whole school attendance has exceeded 94% which is substantially higher than the average across England. I very much hope this continues into 2021 so that all students continue their recovery from the extended period of school closure during 2020.

### DfE announcement regarding delayed start to Term

The Government's Department for Education announced yesterday evening that there will be a delayed start to the school term after the Christmas holiday. This means that:

- **Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will remain at home and will be provided with online learning for the first week. We will send further detail about this closer to the time.**
- **Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will return to school on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January.**
- **Year 11 will be expected to attend from the 5<sup>th</sup> January (4<sup>th</sup> January remains as a TD Day).**
- **Key worker and vulnerable children in Year 7 and 8 will be able to attend from 5<sup>th</sup> January. Keyworkers and parents of vulnerable children will need to email [admin@stonehenge.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stonehenge.wilts.sch.uk) to inform us of your intention to send them in for the first week before 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021.**

I am writing to make you aware of some important changes we are introducing during the spring term.

**Timetable.** All students will receive new timetables upon return to school in January. The key change is a return to a 2 week timetable model – most students will see only a few changes, and will mostly continue to be taught by the same teachers as before.



However, Year 7 students will now be placed into ability sets and will no longer be taught in mixed ability tutor groups. Students in Year 9 will start studying their option subjects.

New timetables are available on Insight and Show My Homework, but please note that Insight involves manually selecting correct date (week beginning 4<sup>th</sup> January), and Show My Homework will upload correct timetable from 1<sup>st</sup> January. We realise that the two systems are currently displaying different versions but hope the explanation above helps. Year 7 pupils will also be able to see their new sets in this way. We use Amesbury related words so with 8 classes use ANTROBUS (A, N and T being the top ability classes; R, O and B being middle ability classes, and U and S being lower ability).

**Year Group bubbles and zoning.** For morning registration the current zoning arrangements continue. Tutor groups remain where they are and students still use the same entrance into school that they have used this term. At break and lunch times year groups must remain in their zone so that bubbles are not mixed. For timetabled lessons we are increasing the proportion of practical and technical subjects taught in specialist rooms, such as workshops, IT rooms and laboratories. Teachers will remain largely in their own teaching room, ensuring a consistent approach to classroom management and hygiene measures. Students will notice an increase in the amount of movement around site so that they can access specialist teaching rooms. This transition between lessons is assessed as low risk by PHE and the NHS because children are constantly moving and not therefore liable to come into close contact with other year groups. We will introduce a one way system inside school buildings, and all existing coronavirus protection measures will remain in place.

**Covid-19 National Testing Programme.** The Government announced this week that they plan to introduce testing for asymptomatic secondary school students and staff from January 2021. In practice, this means that a positive test within a year group would no longer require the whole bubble to be sent home to isolate for 10 days. Instead the close contact students, if they consent to serial testing for 7 days, could remain at school as long as they test negative. We are awaiting further clarification on this strategy. We will not have the capacity to introduce this programme at the beginning of January and I will contact you again once I have the necessary information.

On behalf of everyone at The Stonehenge School I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous new year, a year I hope we all anticipate with ever growing optimism.

Yours

Mr N D Roper  
Headteacher

